

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 AID-05 /087 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8193
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, IS, JO , TC
SUBJECT: UAE ASSISTANCE TO CITY OF BETHLEHEM

REF: JERUSALEM 2143

1. DURING MY MEETINGS WITH UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI,
I HAVE ON OCCASION RAISED SUBJECT OF UAE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIFFERENT
WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES INCLUDING BETHLEHEM. SUWADI HAS IN PAST
INDICATED THAT UAE WAS OR WOULD BE PROVIDING SOMETHING BUT HAS BEEN
CAREFUL NOT TO BE TOO SPECIFIC BECAUSE OF PROBLEM IT POSES FOR UAE
PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID WITH COMPETING MAYORS IN WEST BANK CLAMORING FOR

MORE. UAE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT ANY LARGE
TRANSFER OF
FUNDS TO DIFFERENT WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES MIGHT BENEFIT ISRAELI
ECONOMY INDIRECTLY OR MIGHT GO INTO THE POCKETS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.

AS SUWAIDI HAS EXPLAINED IT TO ME, UAE PREFERS TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL ASSIST
MUNICIPALITIES IN PRESERVING A DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE.

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2. WE HAVE NOT TRIED TO PRY AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAS
BEEN PROMISED TO EACH WEST BANK MUNICIPALITY OR FOR WHAT
PURPOSE AND WE DOUBT THIS WOULD BE OF MUCH USE AT THIS
TIME. AMOUNTS INVOLVED ARE BELIEVED TO BE RELATIVELY
SMALL. WHILE IT MAY WELL BE THAT NABLUS AND RAMALLAH
HAVE RECEIVED OR BEEN PROMISED LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS THAN
BETHLEHEM, BELIEVE CONSIDERATIONS OTHER THAN WHETHER WEST

BANK MUNICIPALITY IS "MODERATE" MAY HAVE AFFECTED UAE
LARGESSE. UAE HAS TO SPREAD ITS AID TO MUNICIPALITIES HEADED
BY MUSLIM AS WELL AS CHRISTIAN MAYORS. IT ALSO FACT THAT
POPULATIONS OF BOTH NABLUS AND RAMALLAH ARE MUCH LARGER THAN
BETHLEHEM. ALSO BELIEVE NABLUS AND RAMALLAH HAVE RECEIVED
ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER RICH ARAB STATES UNDER "TWIN CITY PROGRAM"
WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR THEIR CLAIM TO LARGER DONATIONS.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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